

THE CLAIMS

1. A method of automatically determining the effect of stock events in a portfolio, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database of stock event information for a plurality of stocks,
5 said stock event information comprising:

stock names;

stock share adjustment values;

stock price adjustment values;

resulting stock share multiplier values;

10 resulting stock price multiplier values; and

resulting stock names;

(b) selecting a stock in the portfolio;

(c) providing information about a first transaction of said stock, wherein said transactional information comprises:

15 the quantity of shares of said stock associated with the first transaction;

when the first transaction occurred; and

how much the first transaction cost;

(d) identifying whether said first transaction added or removed stock from the portfolio;

20 (e) identifying stock events related to the selected stock after said first transaction and affecting the number or types of stock in the portfolio, wherein the step of identifying related stock events comprises comparing said first transactional information to said database of stock event information; and

(f) determining the quantity and type of shares in the portfolio after the
25 occurrence of said stock event information.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the stock events identified affect the price or number of shares of said stock in said portfolio.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the stock events identified comprise stock splits, reverse stock splits, mergers, or spin-offs.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

5 (g) selecting an accounting method for accounting for the addition or removal of stock from said portfolio;

(h) automatically determining the cost basis of said stock after the occurrence of said stock event information; and

(i) generating and displaying a report of cost basis.

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5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

providing information about a second transaction of said stock, wherein said information about said second transaction comprises:

the quantity of shares of said stock associated with the second

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transaction;

when the second transaction occurred; and

how much the second transaction cost;

identifying whether said second transaction added or removed stock from the portfolio;

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identifying stock events related to the selected stock after said second transaction and affecting the number or types of stock in the portfolio, wherein the step of identifying related stock events comprises comparing said second transactional information to said database of stock event information; and

determining the quantity and type of shares in the portfolio after the

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occurrence of said stock event information.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of determining the quantity of shares of said stock in the portfolio after said second transaction; and

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying stock events after said first transaction results in more than one stock event being identified.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of determining the quantity and type
5 of shares in the portfolio after the occurrence of said stock event information is performed for each stock event for said stock after the first transaction.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

(g) providing information about a second transaction of said stock;

10 (h) identifying stock events related to the selected stock after said second transaction;

(i) selecting an accounting method used by the investor;

(j) automatically determining the cost basis of said stock after the occurrence of said second transaction using the selected accounting method;

15 (k) generating and displaying a report of cost basis.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said second transaction comprises a sale, donation, or other disposition of stock, and further comprising the step of determining
20 gains or losses according to the selected accounting method.

11, The method of claim 4, wherein the step of generating and displaying a report of cost basis comprises:

identifying stock purchases and sales;

25 identifying stock events; and

identifying new stocks resulting from stock events.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing information about when a first transaction occurred comprises an approximate date range.

13. A method of automatically updating a stock certificate comprising the steps
5 of:

(a) providing a database of stock event information for a plurality of stocks, said stock event information comprising:

stock names;

stock share adjustment values;

10 stock price adjustment values;

(b) selecting a stock name from said stock certificate;

(c) providing information about the stock described on said stock certificate, wherein said information comprises:

the quantity of shares of said stock associated with the certificate;

15 when the certificate issued; and

how much the first transaction cost;

(d) identifying stock events related to the selected stock after when the certificate issued and affecting the number or types of stock represented by the certificate, wherein the step of identifying related stock events comprises comparing
20 when the certificate issued to said database of stock event information; and

(e) determining the quantity and type of shares represented by the certificate after the occurrence of said stock event information.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said database of stock event information
25 further comprises:

resulting stock share multiplier values;

resulting stock price multiplier values; and

resulting stock names.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of generating and displaying a report of the effect of stock events on the quantity and type of shares represented by the certificate.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein said report comprises names and quantities of stocks represented by the certificate and the present value of the stocks held.

17. A method of determining possible origins of stock in a portfolio comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing a database of stock event information for a plurality of stocks, said stock event information comprising:

original stock names;

original stock share adjustment values;

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original stock price adjustment values;

resulting stock share multiplier values;

resulting stock price multiplier values; and

resulting stock names;

(b) selecting a first stock having a first stock name;

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(c) searching the resulting stock names in the database for the first stock name;

(d) identifying a first set of original stock names related to stock event information where the first stock name matches the resulting stock name;

(e) generating and displaying a report comprising the first set of identified stock names.

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18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

(f) searching the resulting stock names in the database for stock names from the first set of identified stock names;

(g) identifying a second set of original stock names related to stock event information where at least one stock name from the first set of identified stock names matches the resulting stock name;

5 (h) wherein the step of generating and displaying a report further comprises the second set of identified stock names.

19. A method of automating estate valuation comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database of stock event information for a plurality of stocks, said stock event information comprising:

10 original stock names;
original stock share adjustment values;
original stock price adjustment values;
resulting stock share multiplier values;
resulting stock price multiplier values; and
15 resulting stock names;

(b) entering known information about a first stock in a decedent's portfolio;

(c) automatically identifying a first set of stock events related to the first stock that affected the number or types of stock in the decedent's portfolio before the decedent's death;

20 (d) automatically determining the quantity and type of shares in the portfolio after the occurrence of said first set of stock event information;

(e) determining the value of the portfolio as of the day of the decedent's death;

25 (f) automatically identifying a second set of stock events related to the first stock that affected the number or types of stock in the decedent's portfolio before an alternate date after the decedent's death;

(g) determining the value of the portfolio as of the alternate date; and

(i) selecting a new basis from the decedent's cost basis, the value of the portfolio as of the day of the decedent's death, or the value of the portfolio as of the alternate date.

5 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the alternate date is approximately 6 months after the decedent's death.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the alternate date corresponds to a date permitted by tax law.

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22. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of selecting a new basis comprises selecting the highest value from the decedent's cost basis, the value of the portfolio as of the day of the decedent's death, or the value of the portfolio as of the alternate date.